



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending June 19, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)*

**Good Week for Field Work:** Dry weather persisted throughout much of the Keystone State with temperatures creeping into the 90's during the middle of the week. Scattered showers late in the week brought mild relief; however, moisture levels are still insufficient in maintaining proper plant growth in some parts of the state. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included haymaking, spreading manure on hay fields, spraying fruit, planting soybeans, fertilizing corn, re-spraying corn, harvesting barley, fence mending, and preparation of combines for grain harvesting.

## PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending June 19, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
8	37	55	0

**Crops:** Forty-two percent of this year's barley crop is now ripe, well behind last year and the 5-year average. Producers have also harvested 14 percent of this year's barley crop, only slightly behind historic averages. Ninety-seven percent of this year's corn crop is now emerged, which is slightly ahead of last year at the same time. Corn height is now at 16 inches, 9 inches behind last year at this time but on pace with the 5-year average. Corn crop conditions remained relatively unchanged from last week as 84 percent of this year's crop is rated as either good or excellent. Ninety-six percent of soybeans are now planted, and 88 percent of the crop is emerged. Both of these figures are considerably ahead of the historic pace. Seventy percent of soybeans are rated as either good or excellent. Wheat crop progress continues to be behind schedule as only 35 percent of this year's crop is turning yellow, 13 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Seventy-eight percent of the wheat crop is rated as either good or excellent. Oats are heading at 46 percent, only slightly ahead of historic trends. Eighty-eight percent of tobacco is transplanted now. Eighty percent of this year's 1<sup>st</sup> cutting of alfalfa is complete, slightly ahead of last year's average. Some producers have begun their 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting of alfalfa as 8 percent is now complete. Concerns are mounting over increased yield losses from the 1<sup>st</sup> cutting as dry weather persists in the state. Sixty-eight percent of the alfalfa stand is rated as either good or

excellent. Sixty-two percent of timothy clover is now cut, and 62 percent of the timothy clover stand is rated as either good or excellent. The quality of hay made this week was 3 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 33 percent excellent.

Peach crop conditions continued to decline while apple conditions remained steady from last week. Only 63 percent of peaches are now rated as either good or excellent while 86 percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent.

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions were rated with the following: 1 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. This is relatively unchanged from last week's conditions. Reports surfaced that milk production dipped by as much as 20 percent last week when temperatures soared into the mid-90's. Production is expected to return to normal very soon.

**U.S. As of June 12, 2005:** Highlights: Tropical Storm Arlene moved ashore along the central Gulf Coast Saturday, bringing heavy rain to parts of the Mississippi Delta and Southeast. Though some areas experienced crop damage due to excessive rainfall, the precipitation was mostly beneficial to cotton and peanut crops in the region. Temperatures were above normal in the eastern half of the Nation, particularly in the Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, where the warmth was favorable for winter wheat heading and summer crop development. Corn: The vast majority of the crop was between the emergence and silking stages. Emergence was not quite complete in the northernmost growing areas, while silking had begun in the southern States. Condition of the crop improved in most areas as showers boosted soil moisture. Soybeans: Planting advanced to 94 percent complete, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of normal. Eighty-five percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 81 percent last year and 78 percent for the 5-year average. Winter Wheat: Heading, at 93 percent complete, was 1 point behind last year but 1 point ahead of normal. Growers had harvested 12 percent of their acreage, 11 points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Small Grains: Oat heading was 37 percent complete, 2 points behind last year but 1 point ahead of normal.

# Weather Data For Week Ending June 19, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - June 19, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	89	56	70	4	1.46	3	7.27	-2.02	32	649	90	1,263
Franklin	87	49	67	2	0.98	6	8.81	-1.42	43	573	31	1,235
Meadville	87	49	67	3	1.51	4	7.58	-2.36	33	617	136	1,275
Mercer	88	49	68	3	0.86	5	9.85	-0.22	42	577	30	1,217
Springboro	88	47	67	1	0.69	4	8.93	0.09	39	533	-42	1,131
Warren	89	49	67	2	1.43	6	9.04	-1.60	36	562	41	1,204
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	84	46	63	3	1.59	6	8.74	-1.92	40	401	51	970
Emporium	90	49	68	6	1.25	6	5.80	-4.95	38	549	147	1,192
Kane	86	43	64	4	1.22	6	8.03	-2.82	36	376	32	936
Laporte	85	48	66	1	0.69	4	10.68	0.46	39	485	-57	1,084
Lock Haven	91	50	70	4	0.24	5	6.15	-3.60	33	666	70	1,359
Port Allegany	88	48	66	4	0.71	5	5.50	-4.73	34	452	34	1,025
Renovo	91	51	69	3	0.74	4	4.79	-4.96	32	652	56	1,344
Ridgway	86	44	66	4	1.76	6	7.45	-3.30	34	447	45	1,064
Stevenson Dam	89	51	68	6	0.59	5	5.54	-5.21	37	597	195	1,271
Towanda	90	49	70	5	0.77	3	8.49	-0.16	28	598	43	1,254
Wellsboro	84	48	65	4	0.59	5	9.76	1.48	31	449	85	1,021
Williamsport	92	51	71	4	0.14	4	8.05	-1.78	26	753	63	1,457
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	90	47	68	5	0.27	2	8.86	-1.01	31	506	72	1,126
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	92	50	72	5	1.02	2	7.00	-2.14	28	758	123	1,462
Susquehanna	89	50	69	7	0.86	4	8.98	-1.30	35	549	141	1,186
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	88	47	68	2	0.45	3	9.22	-0.87	34	620	40	1,324
New Castle	90	49	69	3	0.20	4	9.99	0.92	36	677	99	1,377
Slippery Rock	88	47	68	3	0.62	3	9.45	-0.26	36	621	103	1,335
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	86	48	69	2	1.01	1	3.89	-5.45	17	627	-26	1,310
DuBois	85	46	66	1	0.73	4	7.51	-2.89	42	558	23	1,223
Lewistown	91	53	72	4	0.03	1	6.89	-2.94	29	727	-3	1,452
Middletown	93	57	75	5	0.04	1	7.26	-2.75	25	948	112	1,713
Prince Gallitzi	88	43	67	4	0.29	3	6.18	-5.53	37	484	4	1,120
Selinsgrove	93	48	71	4	0.09	2	7.36	-2.57	25	676	20	1,381
State College	88	52	70	3	0.12	4	4.85	-4.27	32	696	60	1,410
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	91	52	73	4	0.08	2	10.53	0.43	29	787	43	1,526
Lehighton	89	51	71	3	0.31	2	11.45	1.35	32	677	-32	1,395
Matamoras	89	49	70	3	0.27	2	8.37	-2.33	33	566	-55	1,225
Tobyhanna	90	51	71	10	0.62	5	10.02	-1.25	39	651	292	1,357
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	89	53	71	4	0.26	3	6.95	-2.86	33	842	186	1,591
Derry	88	48	68	2	0.17	1	8.98	-0.75	30	643	49	1,349
Myersdale	84	43	64	-2	0.16	2	7.43	-3.29	30	417	-162	1,030
Mount Pleasant	87	47	68	4	0.31	4	9.36	-1.90	38	625	119	1,334
Pittsburgh Intl	88	50	69	2	0.32	2	9.91	0.89	35	780	80	1,512
Rector	87	48	68	4	0.52	4	8.73	-2.53	41	616	110	1,322
Waynesburg	89	48	69	2	0.50	2	7.46	-2.36	28	649	22	1,367
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	92	51	72	2	0.82	1	9.57	0.17	29	779	-52	1,522
Everett	88	44	68	2	0.68	3	5.01	-4.03	29	445	-183	1,084
Hanover	91	49	73	2	0.00	0	7.05	-2.35	26	769	-62	1,503
Shippensburg	94	52	73	3	1.90	2	7.83	-1.41	28	809	-33	1,540
South Mountain	86	48	69	2	0.25	1	8.16	-1.18	24	707	61	1,450
York	91	51	72	3	0.00	0	6.43	-3.62	21	807	-32	1,540
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	92	54	73	6	0.00	0	9.41	-0.40	25	769	73	1,515
Hamburg	93	51	72	6	0.00	0	8.39	-3.35	24	800	192	1,540
Hopewell	92	54	74	2	0.22	2	9.29	-0.89	31	776	-103	1,524
Lancaster	91	53	73	4	0.07	1	9.84	0.02	26	835	87	1,579
Neshaminy Falls	91	53	73	3	0.00	0	9.53	-1.42	21	699	-44	1,420
New Holland	92	54	74	5	0.21	2	7.19	-2.63	27	835	87	1,583
Philadelphia	94	60	77	5	0.32	1	8.98	-0.70	24	974	74	1,761
Philadelphia NE	93	56	76	5	0.02	1	9.28	-0.40	22	941	41	1,717
Reading	93	53	74	5	0.23	1	7.34	-3.61	27	875	155	1,625
Valley Forge Na	94	50	73	2	0.00	0	10.98	0.80	19	699	-180	1,415
Willow Grove	91	56	74	5	0.00	0	7.33	-3.62	21	847	104	1,609

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

***Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.***

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Sharon Weigle (FSA)** - Rain showers and hot, humid weather jump started most crops but made hay drying a challenge this past week. We could still use steady rain as moisture in the ground is not deep. Some cherry producers are reporting harvest; crop may be light for some.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Tara Baugher (EXT)** - Hand thinning of peaches is under way with some growers nearing completion. Sweet cherry harvest will begin next week, and tart cherry harvest is likely to be in full swing the week of June 27th.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - The first three days were in the 90's but turned cool for the remaining of the week. Scattered showers hit the county this week. Hay needs made; hopefully, the rain will hold off so we can have some good haymaking days. Oats are short and beginning to head.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Several cool and overcast days with only 0.1 inch of rainfall in my gauge for the week. We need some good showers or an all day soaker to keep the crops growing.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice)** - Cooler weather is forecasted this week with little chance of rain. Getting dry but crops are doing well.

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tim Mussmon (AgChoice)** - Corn is being re-sprayed for weed growth that emerged due to lack of moisture when first weed control was done.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Much needed rain came through our area this week with clearing and dry weather for the weekend. Farmers were out in full force on Saturday mowing hay for the predicted dry upcoming week. Corn and bean fields are looking excellent for our area.

**ERIE COUNTY, Nancy L Lewis (FSA)** - This past week brought much needed rain to the area; however, rainfall varied within the county. Some areas received downpours while others remained dry. Cloudy, cool weather set in. The majority of producers have reported that all crops were planted timely and are progressing as expected.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - Hay appears to have a light bottom. Most farmers should have an excellent second crop. Corn appears to be better than it has in the past 10 years. Oats will be short. Most farmers have been able to get spraying done in a timely manner.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA)** - Another good week for field activity. Corn is growing now since nights are warm. Most corn looks excellent; however, some later planted corn is beginning to show stress due to lack of rain. Only about 1 inch of rain for June so far. Barley harvest is now under way in the southern portions of the county. Yields are less than normal, and with the low price, it is questionable if the effort will be feasible. The straw is more valuable than the grain. Alfalfa second cutting has started, but if rain does not come soon, it will be a very short crop again. Strawberries are finishing up as the heat last week brought them on in a hurry.

**FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas** - Wheat is starting to show some disease pressures.

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT)** - Much needed showers late in the week greatly improved vegetable crop condition. The apple crop continues to look good.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS)** - Hot weather is really making the crops grow. Scattered thunderstorms made haymaking and small grain harvesting more of a challenge.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde** - Very little rain these past two months but enough to keep things growing slowly. Combines are busy with barley harvest. The early transplanted tobacco looks good and healthy. Grasses and weeds are quickly going to seedhead. It's time to mow or spray.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - Heat and humidity are gone, but we are still dry. Only 2.33 inches of rain has fallen in my gauge since May 1st. Planting is all but complete and haymaking is progressing slowly. Little hay was made because of the spotty thunderstorms this week. Corn is being side dressed. Most of the SPAD meter readings are high, not needing any more nitrogen. Corn is beginning to curl, and it is only knee high.

**POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA)** - Warmer temperatures have improved corn growth. Haylage making is still going on. No dry hay made due to rain every other day. Hay crop is still being reported as lower tonnage than normal.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer** - It was a good week for haymaking but not for plant growth. The second cutting of alfalfa is extremely short as a result of the heat and dry topsoil conditions. There is no evidence of potato leafhopper. Barley is ready to be harvested, wheat is beginning to turn yellow, and oats have headed. The pastures are not showing much sign of regrowth. The main activities for the week were haymaking, spraying herbicides, and preparing the combines for the upcoming grain harvest.

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS)** - Lots of corn is being re-sprayed due to the lack of rain early to activate soil applied herbicides. Main activities were haymaking, corn fertilization, fence mending and machinery repairs. The early planted oats are beginning to be harvested as silage.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - An unsettled week with some strong storms early followed by cooler temperatures toward the week's end. Most of the first-cutting grass hay remains unharvested waiting on the first three-day period in June to allow for dry hay baling. Some spring-planted crop stands are a little spotty after April and May's cool, dry conditions.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending June 19, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, emerged	97	95	89
Corn average height, inches	16	25	16
Barley, turning yellow	93	95	88
Barley, ripe	42	71	53
Barley, harvested	14	19	20
Wheat, turning yellow	35	72	48
Oats, heading or headed	46	41	43
Soybeans, planted	96	88	83
Soybeans, emerged	88	69	72
Tobacco, transplanted	88	90	82
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	80	77	73
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	8	0	0
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	55	43	40

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending June 19, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	4	22	58	16
Wheat	0	0	22	66	12
Oats	0	3	25	60	12
Soybeans	0	5	25	54	16
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	4	28	50	18
Timothy clover stand	1	5	32	52	10
Quality of hay made	0	3	19	45	33
Pasture	1	7	31	44	17
Peaches	2	4	31	39	24
Apples	2	3	9	53	33

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